The Southern PATRIOT

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Integration-Haters Advised To 'Cool Off'

"Anyone who thinks the transition from segregation to racial coeducation can be made without prob'ems, tensions, and even personal tragedies is a fool. But, anyone who thinks the transition will mean the end of civilization in the South also is a fool."

Thus spoke Dr. Guy B. Johnson, professor of sociology at the University of North Carolina, at Tuskegee Institute's Founder's Day ceremonies last month. He urged a 30-day "cooling off" period before Southern legislatures take action on any Supreme Court decision outlawing segregated schools. "There will be great need for public discussion. The press, radio and TV will have a grave responsibility to offset rabble rousers."

He scoffed at the idea of setting up "private-public" schools. He said the cost of equalizing separate school systems in the South—one billion dollars to start, plus a half billion annually—would cause taxpayers "to raise questions about the price tag of segregation."

The Alabama State Board of Education estimates that the price of equalization in that state would be about $100,000,000.

Illuminating detail on the situation in Alabama is supplied in this letter from a white educator there who wished to remain anonymous:

"Cross-purposes are the keynote. The State Board is acting as if the 'separate but equal' doctrine will be upheld by the Supreme Court, yet not a superintendent or principal I know doubts that segregation will be tossed out.

"The result is this. My job takes me to schools in the Black Belt and as far south as Mobile. Everywhere I find principals drowning in paper work and routine decisions. I ask, why don't you boys lobby to get assistants? "All the money's going to Negro schools," they tell me sadly. And they apologize for paper being on the lawn, etc., because their maintenance crews have all been drafted for repair work at Negro schools.

"And sure enough. New and rehabilitated Negro schools are popping up like mushrooms—in outlandish places. There won't be even chickens around to roost in them once the Supreme Court ruling takes effect. It pains me to see the state betting so much money on a dead horse.

"But what is even more tragic is that while nearly all the supervisory school officials see that integration is inevitable, nobody has the guts to prepare the teachers for the change. None of the state teachers colleges offers a course in racial relations. The teachers' association ignores the problem. They're all in a dream world.

"The other day I went into a second grade classroom. The teacher showed me what a fine-looking group of children had built: A plantation home of cardboard and clay. There was a mammy doll beside it. And the teacher proudly pointed out the slave quarters in back. It was enough to break your heart..."

Will Mixed Schools Cause Firing Of Negro Teachers?

There is an interesting weapon being tried by the defenders of segregated schools; a threat, wrapped in sweet reasonableness, designed to split Negro leadership and to confuse liberal white sentiment.

The essence is: You can force integration of the schools, if that's what you want—but remember that every Negro teacher in the South will be out of a job when that happens.

Surety that such mass firings will occur is furnished from two sources: (1) purported conditions in the North; (2) alleged statements from alleged Negro leaders.

In the integrated North, it is claimed, a Negro has little chance in the teaching profession. The North will educate them, but won't hire them, the story goes.

And, to be sure, a Negro teacher is hard to find up North—but largely because no records as to race are kept in the schools. That is the case in New York City. In Southern New Jersey, where schools were recently integrated, the State Division against Discrimination reports that the number of Negro teachers has increased rather than decreased. Henry Lee Moon, director of public relations for the NAACP, states, "I recall from my childhood in Cleveland that if they had then had separate schools they would have had an oversupply of Negro teachers because the proportion of Negro teachers to the total number of teachers was then greater than the ratio among the student body."

A Negro "authority" is quoted to the effect that 75 per cent of Southern Negro teachers and 20,000 Negro principals will be discharged when integration comes.

Dean Charles H. Thompson, of Howard University, refutes this claim in the April issue of the **Journal of Negro Education.** He points out that 42 per cent of the teachers are protected by tenure laws—and there are **not** 20,000 Negro teachers in the 17 Southern and border states.

"What is more important," Dean Thompson continues, "a study of the teacher supply-demand situation shows that not only will it be impossible to replace Negro teachers with white, but that the supply of white teachers is so short that it will be difficult to meet the demand for **new** white teachers each year to replace those who retire, die, or resign."

DEPUTY ACCUSED OF BEATING DOCTOR

In New Iberia, La., last month Dr. M. E. Chatters, a Negro woman physician, was stopped by a state trooper and asked for her driver's license. She explained that she had recently lost her purse, and the license had been in it. She was instructed to go to the driver's license bureau to get a registered receipt for a duplicate.

There, she says, a deputy began reprimanding her in harsh terms. She protested such treatment and the deputy then struck her across the head, threw her to the floor and kicked her in the stomach.

She went to find the sheriff, but was unsuccessful. She says the deputy followed her and continued his abuse.

The SCEF has brought the incident to the attention of several groups and has written Governor Kennon of Louisiana, urging a full investigation.

LETTERS: 'The Untouchables' Is Panned & Praised

The following represents a sampling of the comment we have received concerning "The Untouchables." Copies of this pamphlet on racial discrimination in medical care are still available at 50 cents apiece.

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To the Editor:

Your bulletin "The Untouchables" will please any Communist or person believing in a classless society. It is a one-sided argument against segregation by uninformed persons who evidently think the only difference between white and Negro is color.

Negroes deserve adequate hospital service and it is being rapidly supplied and paid for by white people. It can be supplied with segregation.

Segregation is a social problem. We will continue to have that, so long as we remain a democracy, and so long as we have a considerable part of our population who have some self-respect and who understand the Negro.

R. A. EDWARDS,
Richmond, Ky.

* * *

To the Editor:

Congratulations on an excellent study of medical discrimination. I am particularly interested as I am a senior medical student.

Studies and polls really have an important function. Enclosed find my feeble check for $1.00 (medical tuition is high) . . .

HERBERT KRESH,
Louisville, Ky.

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The following note was scribbled at the bottom of a letter we had sent out accompanying a review copy:

Plain damned nonsense.

DAILY NEWS,
Jackson, Miss.

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From an editorial in the Central Christian Advocate:

We are greatly indebted to the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., for the impressive manner in which it places this problem (hospital discrimination) on the public conscience of the nation through its pamphlet "The Untouchables."

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To the Editor:

I appreciate the copy of "The Untouchables" which you sent and will be making use of it for one of my articles in the Pittsburgh Courier. It is a very good job.

BENJAMIN E. MAYS,
President, Morehouse College,
Atlanta, Ga.

* * *

To the Editor:

I wish to thank you for the valuable material you let us use for our contest on civil rights and the federal government.

Our school won first prize in the 13th District contest and third prize in the state contest at Southern University.

SISTER GRACE MARIA,
Holy Ghost School,
Opelousas, La.

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The following letters continue our presentation of comment from persons who were delegates at the Columbia youth conference.

To the Editor:

Looking back at the youth conference I can visualize the progress of American youth in world brotherhood.

As a Spanish American student, I was tempted many times to believe that I was in South America because of the oneness together of so many young people of different races. Each student seemed to be so eager, sincere, and longing for mutual understanding. I was rather overwhelmed with the heartfelt testimonies, the inquiring into "what we can do to better the situation," and the voluntary promises of help in every capacity.

I believe that the world is watching the movement of the youth of America today. . .

BONNELL WILLIAMS,
Wayland College,
Plainview, Texas

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To the Editor:

I think the conference was particularly valuable in these respects . . .:

1. Small discussion groups.
2. Plenary sessions with ample opportunity for reports of small groups and criticism and modification of these reports.
3. Student testimony of campus means and ends.
4. Resource persons who stay in the background but can be called on at any time.
5. Boarding and rooming in the same building . . .

HOWARD L. PARSONS,
Knoxville, Tenn.

To the Editor:

The Columbia conference was my first experience and was extremely worthwhile. May I say, along with my friend Leonard Weeks, that it was a mistake to label the conference a "youth" rally and then have most of the proceedings dominated by the older persons present. . .

(Editor's Note: The formal title of the conference was "Conference on Youth and Racial Unity through Educational Opportunity. The shorter "label" was for convenience, not misrepresentation.)

At times it seemed that the presiding officers felt it was their duty to discourage participation in the discussions and that they wished to "hog" the show. . . .

I am a member of the Catholic Church and will be the first to recognize the great opportunity churches have to benefit the fight against segregation. However, in all frankness, there were ample examples at the conference when the whole affair assumed a "give-'em-hell" brush arbor revival. It is my contention that too much time was spent in the conference with people convincing each other of their Christianity rather than to actual concrete investigations of segregation...

BILL CRANE,
Texarkana, Ark.

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To the Editor:

The last report on the attendance of the South Carolina meeting is most significant. Its distribution is impressive. It was by far larger than usual interracial meetings.

I want to express my delight and thanks!

ROBERT E. JONES,
Bishop (Retired)
The Methodist Church
Waveland, Miss.

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To the Editor:

The morning mail brought with it a communication from your secretary-treasurer to the effect that the hideous moment has once again arrived when I must back my ideas with my money. Accordingly, you will find enclosed a check in the amount of $25.

I really could not respond without adding a word of praise or congratulation—or whatever you want to call it—concerning the work the SCEF seems to have done the past year. I hope you find it possible to carry on a similarly vigorous program during 1953.

CHARLES L. CRUM,
School of Law,
University of North Dakota

—Photo Courtesy Arizona Crippled Children's Society

SAMUEL GOMPERS MEMORIAL CLINIC for crippled children of all races opened last month in Phoenix, Ariz. It was built by AFL unions in that area and will be operated on a nonsegregated basis by the Maricopa chapter of the Society for Crippled Children. In New Orleans, the SCEF is working with a group of citizens to see if the same arrangement cannot prevail at a new children's hospital that will soon open.

Medicine's 'Narrow, Golden Gate' Assailed By Doctor

The following article is by Dr. Park J. White, assistant professor of clinical pediatrics, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis. Dr. White, a member of the recently formed Medical Advisory Committee to the SCEF, describes the major problems that must be met if more democratic medical care is to be achieved.

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By Park J. White, M.D.

The integration of Negro members into national, state, and local medical organizations seems to be fairly under way, and should gather momentum. Much of course remains to be done.

The two areas of greatest need are: First, opening up more medical schools to properly qualified Negro medical students. "Proper qualification" promptly presents a formidable obstacle. Many graduates of the small colleges for Negroes simply cannot compete with those of the larger, better-equipped, better-staffed schools (another indication of the fallacy of the formula "separate but equal.") Our medical schools are accepting and should accept only students from the top levels in their premedical classes.

Also, the gateway to medical education has become both narrow and golden. Medical school tuition alone is now about $800.00 per year. The tremendous increase in medical knowledge practically precludes a student's academic survival if he must engage in gainful employment. Yes, the "rich man's son" has a better chance, here as elsewhere. And remember, such high tuition pays perhaps a fourth of the expense of the student's education.

Comes then the long internship with its need for further subsidization. It needs scarcely be said that the Negro is economically disadvantaged, nor yet that the need for more and better-trained Negro physicians is even greater than that for white.

The second "greatest need" is the opening of hospitals to interracial staffs, both resident and visiting, as well as to patients of all colors. So far, this seems to have been more attainable in children's hospitals. (Remember Isaiah's prophecy that a little child shall lead them.) More and more instances of the economic as well as humanitarian stupidity of segregation on the part of hospitals are being brought to light.

The dire and unmet financial needs of our medical schools may turn out to be a (disguised) blessing to the medical education of Negroes. For despite the outcry against Government in Medicine, where Government has entered the medical field, the results have been in the main admittedly good. The evils incidental to political interference have been kept to a minimum. And when it comes to a much-needed Rich Uncle, the one best qualified for the title seems to be Uncle Sam, although his bank account goes mostly for self-defense.

The Federal Government has ever been more mindful of the existence of minority groups than have local governments; and its funds have usually been made available to persons of all colors.

We doctors on the SCEF's Advisory Committee must think on these things!

Mattiwilda Dobbs, daughter of SCEF board member John Wesley Dobbs of Atlanta, scored a sensational success in her debut at the Milan, Italy, opera house. She was the first Negro to sing in La Scala.

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The Alabama Medical Association last month gave its affiliated county units permission to admit Negro doctors as members. The step was called "a foundation for gradual integration."

TRENDS

When the Hot Springs Bathers of the Cotton States baseball league signed two Negro players, the other seven teams tried to oust the club from membership. This move failed, but the Negroes were dropped.

Last month Negro groups in Greenville, Miss., a Cotton States team, pledged a boycott of games there. And the sports editor of the Millsaps College newspaper, in Jackson, Miss., said this: "Negroes are now in practically every sport. And why should they not be? I think that if a person is equal to me in any field he should be accepted regardless of color."

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Last month President Eisenhower decreed that segregation be ended at schools on U. S. army posts.

His order also affected schools "operated with state funds but on federal property and in federally owned buildings." Most of these are in areas where a large influx of defense workers or military personnel had overtaxed local facilities. Agreements concerning integration were being sought from local officials, it was said, and should these be denied, "other arrangements in these instances will be considered."

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Mrs. Andrew W. Simkins, SCEF board member, testified before the Senate Judiciary committee of the S. C. legislature in behalf of a bill which would require a 3-day waiting period following application for marriage, and pre-marital blood tests.

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"What Can We Do About Segregation," Bob Ewing's thoughtful article in the University of Tennessee newspaper, was reprinted in an editorial "A Young Southerner Speaks" in the Durham, Carolina Times.

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"Encampment for Citizenship," sponsored by the American Ethical Union, brings together (June 28-Aug. 8) about 150 young men and women of many religions, races and backgrounds for an experiment in democratic living. The cost is $200. Some scholarships are available for youth between 17 to 23 years of age. Write to 2 West 64th St., New York, N. Y.

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The American Library Association turned down a bid to come to Miami Beach for its 1954 convention because the city would not give assurances that its facilities would be open to all delegates. Minneapolis was chosen instead.